



Frequently Asked Questions: CSLI Study Tour of Belfast and Oxford

Do I need a Passport?

Yes, you will need a passport. If you don't have a passport, please order it immediately. You won't be able to travel without it. You can apply for a passport online, and at some government agencies including the US Post Office. To find out more passport information or apply online at: [U.S. Department of State passport webpage](#). New airline regulations state that you must have your passport before you can reserve an overseas airline ticket. Some countries require that your passport be valid at least six (6) months beyond the dates of your trip. Some airlines will not allow you to board if this requirement is not met.

Do I need a Visa?

A Visa is not necessary to enter the United Kingdom if you are a U.S. Citizen.

Do I need health insurance?

Yes. You are responsible for securing full overseas medical emergency coverage through your medical insurance provider for the duration of this trip. You should carry a copy of your insurance card when traveling abroad. Your coverage needs to begin no later than the date of your initial departure to the United Kingdom and should remain in effect for the duration of the trip.

Additionally, limited medical insurance is included in the price of the tour. Participants will be provided with an insurance card to carry on the trip and a benefits brochure that they may review.

Optional Travel Insurance?

A travel insurance policy can protect you from a variety of unexpected circumstances while you're traveling. Whether you're looking for trip cancellation coverage to reimburse you for the costs of hotels, flights, and other pre-paid and non-refundable trip expenses or if you need medical expense coverage to protect you from the extensive costs of overseas treatment and hospitalization, a travel insurance policy can drastically decrease your risks.

The C.S. Lewis Institute does not provide travel insurance however, if you are interested in purchasing travel insurance, you may want to check out this website which provides a list of providers along with a variety of plan options. (<https://www.travelinsurance.com/>).

Will I need to have any vaccinations?

The United Kingdom does not require U.S. Citizens to get any vaccinations. However, travelers should check with their physicians to determine if additional vaccinations are recommended for travel to the United Kingdom. Vaccinations depend on a travelers' vaccination history. Also, travelers should check the [Center for Disease Control Traveler's Health Webpage](#) for updates on the United Kingdom.

Is it safe to travel in the United Kingdom?

The U.S. Department of State posts travel alerts and warnings for specific countries on their [Travel Abroad Webpage](#). This website also includes tips on traveling abroad that are country specific.

They also offer free service called [STEP](#). You can register your trip which enables your personal information and your trip information to be sent to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate nearest to your destination. Per the State Department, this information is vital to help them contact you if there is an emergency in the area while you are traveling overseas. In addition, you get the benefit of receiving alerts that may impact your trip to ensure you make informed decisions on your travel plans.

How physically demanding is the program?

Belfast and Oxford are wonderful walking cities. We plan to stroll along some of the paths that Lewis often traveled. You should be able to walk and stand for at least an hour or so and climb a few flights of stairs in order to participate in these activities.

The Institute may be unable to provide special accommodations for people with disabilities. If someone needs accommodation or assistance, that person must bring a companion/assistant at full price. Also, those who have a health or mental condition that may interfere with participation in program activities, need to consult with their physician to determine if they are able to participate in a physically demanding study abroad program. If a potential participant has any questions, they should email us at staff@cslewisinstitute.org.

Will I have internet access?

The hotels we are staying in will provide wireless internet service, as will many café's in the area. Check with your cellular phone provider to see about coverage in the UK on your cell phone.

What clothes should I bring for the tour?

The weather can be unpredictable but it is usually between 54-73 degrees with an average of 69 degrees in June-July. Wear casual, comfortable layered clothing and comfortable walking shoes, as you will be walking outside frequently. Be prepared for rainy, inclement weather.

How can I exchange U.S. dollars for British pounds?

Most British establishments will accept your credit or debit card and that may be easier than using cash. You may also use your ATM card to withdraw money when in the United Kingdom. Just check with your bank and/or credit card company as regards their fees and exchange rates.

If you'd like to have British pounds in hand before your trip, you may check with your local AAA office. You can also exchange U.S. dollars at post offices and exchanges in the United Kingdom.

You can check out this website, www.xe.com/ucc/, for the current exchange rate.

Should I call my credit card company to let them know that I'll be traveling overseas?

Yes, some banks and/or credit card companies will put a hold on your account when they see unusual activity on your credit card if they do not know of your travel plans.

How do I get to the Jury's Inn Hotel in Belfast from the airport?

Belfast City Airport, 3 miles (Recommended Airport): Direct bus link to Europa Bus Centre, every 40 minutes. £3. Taxi rank outside terminal, approx cost is between £12-15. By car: Follow signs from the airport for Belfast leaving from the arrivals end/long stay car park end of the airport, exit via roundabout and under the tunnel to join the A2. Continue forward on the A2 for approximately 3 miles and, when you reach the traffic lights, turn left into Oxford Street (A20 - signposted City Centre). Continue straight onto the A1 (Donegall Square South) and straight onto Howard Street. Turn right at the lights (Spire's Mall will be on your right hand side) onto Fisherwick Place. Our Belfast hotel is on your right hand side.

Belfast International Airport, 19 miles: Shuttlebus every 30 minutes 0545-2320, cost is £4.50-6, taxi rank outside airport, approx cost is between £30-45. By car: Leave the airport and, at the first roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto the Airport Road (A57). Continue straight onto Ballyrobin Road (A57). After 450 yards, take the 2nd exit off the roundabout onto Antrim Road (A6). After 1 mile, take the 2nd exit off the Templepatrick Roundabout onto Templepatrick Road (A57). Leave Templepatrick Road and join the M2 motorway signposted Belfast. Leave the M2 at junction 1a and head straight onto Duncrue Street

(A2). Turn left onto Oxford Street (A20). Continue straight onto Donegall Square South and into Howard Street. Stay in the second lane and turn right at the lights (Spires Mall will be on your right hand side). You are now on Fisherwick Place, and you will find us on your right hand side.

How do I get from the Eastgate Hotel in Oxford to the airport at the end of the tour?

Regular bus service, taxis, and limousine service are readily available from Oxford to London Heathrow and other airports. Information will be available at the hotel.